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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/284,107	10/25/1999	TON LOGTENBERG	313632000600	1900

7590 02/25/2003

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EXAMINER

WESSENDORF, TERESA D

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1639

DATE MAILED: 02/25/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Advisory Action	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/284,107	LOGTENBERG ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	T. D. Wessendorf	1639

--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

THE REPLY FILED 30 January 2003 FAILS TO PLACE THIS APPLICATION IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE. Therefore, further action by the applicant is required to avoid abandonment of this application. A proper reply to a final rejection under 37 CFR 1.113 may only be either: (1) a timely filed amendment which places the application in condition for allowance; (2) a timely filed Notice of Appeal (with appeal fee); or (3) a timely filed Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in compliance with 37 CFR 1.114.

PERIOD FOR REPLY [check either a) or b])

- a) The period for reply expires 3 months from the mailing date of the final rejection.
- b) The period for reply expires on: (1) the mailing date of this Advisory Action, or (2) the date set forth in the final rejection, whichever is later. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of the final rejection.
ONLY CHECK THIS BOX WHEN THE FIRST REPLY WAS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE FINAL REJECTION. See MPEP 706.07(f).

Extensions of time may be obtained under 37 CFR 1.136(a). The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. The appropriate extension fee under 37 CFR 1.17(a) is calculated from: (1) the expiration date of the shortened statutory period for reply originally set in the final Office action; or (2) as set forth in (b) above, if checked. Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of the final rejection, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

1. A Notice of Appeal was filed on _____. Appellant's Brief must be filed within the period set forth in 37 CFR 1.192(a), or any extension thereof (37 CFR 1.191(d)), to avoid dismissal of the appeal.
2. The proposed amendment(s) will not be entered because:
 - (a) they raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search (see NOTE below);
 - (b) they raise the issue of new matter (see Note below);
 - (c) they are not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal; and/or
 - (d) they present additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims.

NOTE: the proposed amendments would provoke a new 112 rejection.

3. Applicant's reply has overcome the following rejection(s): _____.
4. Newly proposed or amended claim(s) _____. would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claim(s).
5. The a) affidavit, b) exhibit, or c) request for reconsideration has been considered but does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: See Continuation Sheet.
6. The affidavit or exhibit will NOT be considered because it is not directed SOLELY to issues which were newly raised by the Examiner in the final rejection.
7. For purposes of Appeal, the proposed amendment(s) a) will not be entered or b) will be entered and an explanation of how the new or amended claims would be rejected is provided below or appended.

The status of the claim(s) is (or will be) as follows:

Claim(s) allowed: none.

Claim(s) objected to: none.

Claim(s) rejected: 1, 3, 5-10 and 13-20.

Claim(s) withdrawn from consideration: _____.

8. The proposed drawing correction filed on _____. is a) approved or b) disapproved by the Examiner.

9. Note the attached Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____.

10. Other: _____.

T. D. Wessendorf
T. D. Wessendorf
Primary Examiner
Art Unit: 1639

Continuation of 5. does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: of the reasons set forth in the last Office action, pages 2-8 under 35 USC 112 and 102.

RESPONSE TO FINALITY OF THE OFFICE ACTION

Applicants assert that the finality of the Office action is premature because claims 13-18 should have been examined on their merits in Paper No. 21. It is argued that these claims have been examined and rejected for the first time. The claims should be treated in a 'non-final' manner as in Paper No. 21. Applicants argue that they have had no opportunity to address the rejections of claims 13-18 under 'non-final'.

In the traversal of Paper 21 [page 4 of the REMARKS 9/9/02)], applicants state that claims 13-18 are not patentably distinct from the elected inventions. This is in fact true. These claims are identical to the elected claims 5-7. Claims 5-7 together with claims 1 and 3 were rejected in the previous Office action. Claim 3 is a species of claim 1. It is therefore not seen how applicants could have not responded to claims 13-18, when they are but claims 5-7. No separate response was made for claims 5-7. Because claims 13-18 are identical to claims 5-7, no new prior art has been applied. Rather, the rejections in paper 21 were just maintained.